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Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 EB-07 /074 W
---------- 104792
R 141312Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1043
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR NO CZ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF PRAGUE 2602

1. KNUT FRYDENLUND WAS IN PRAGUE SEPT 8-11, MAKING THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY BY A NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE 55-YEAR HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, AS IS THEIR WONT IN DEALING WITH VISITS OF TOP FOREIGN OFFICIALS, LAID ON HEAVY MEDIA TREATMENT, SEEKING TO GIVE A PICTURE
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OF CLOSE AND CORDIAL TIES WITH NORWAY.

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2. FRYDENLUND'S MAIN OFFICIAL CONTACTS WERE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK AND PREMIER STROUGAL. CONTENT OF TALKS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON CSCE HELSINKI FINAL ACT (ALMOST HALF OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS DEVOTED TO THIS TOPIC) AND BILATERAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION.

3. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR FOLLOWING UP EASING OF TENSIONS IN THE POLITICAL FIELD WITH RELAXATION IN THE MILITARY SPHERE. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF CONCLUDING A WORLD TREATY ON RENUNCIATION OF USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND OF CREATING A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

4. BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE "ASSESSED POSITIVELY" AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN RAISING THE LEVEL OF BILATERAL TRADE WAS NOTED. THE COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT THE LATTER AIM COULD BE ADVANCED BY SIGNING THE ALREADY INITIALED PROTOCOL ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AND CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE TAXATION. CHNOUPEK GAVE FRYDENLUND A DRAFT DECLARATION ON MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND NORWAY, WHICH FRYDENLUND SAID "WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY."

5. CHNOUPEK ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO NORWAY, WHILE STROUGAL REPEATED AN EARLIER INVITATION FOR PREMIER NORDLI TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

6. DURING HIS VISIT, FRYDENLUND WAS MINDFUL OF THE BAD PRESS CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CHNOUPEK HIMSELF HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED IN SWEDEN, DENMARK AND THE UK AND WAS, PERHAPS, MORE THAN USUALLY CAREFUL IN MAINTAINING RESERVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS. HE AND I HAD AN OUR'S PRIVATE CONVERSATION AT MY RESIDENCE THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 9, BUT THAT WAS TILL TOO EARLY IN HIS VISIT FOR HIM TO GIVE ME A DEFINITIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE TONE OF DISCUSSIONS. HE WAS ALSO SOMEWHAT PREOCCUPIED BY DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG AND RESPONSES HE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE IF QUESTIONED ABOUT ITS IMPLICATIONS. I UNDERSTAND VIBE WILL BRIEF EMBASSY OSLO ON RESULTS OF FRYDENLUND'S VISIT.

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7. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, I DID LEARN THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BIG NORWEGIAN FROZEN FISH PRIDUCER FIRONOR WAS UNOFFICIALLY INCLUDED IN FRYDENLUND'S PARTY IN HOPES OF RAISING LAGGING FISH SALES TO THIS COUNTRY. EFFORT WAS APPARENTLY IN VAIN, SINCE ONE GOC OFFICIAL TOLD HIM THAT PURCHASES WERE BEING REDUCED HERE, "BECAUSE FISH IS BAD FOR PEOPLE."

8. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT, WHATEVER THE PROSPECTS FOR FORZEN FISH SALES, FRYDENLUND'S VISIT MARKS NO REAL CHANGE IN NORWEGIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE GOC PROBABLY

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FOUND THE VISIT USEFUL AS ANOTHER STEP IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO
IMPROVE ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPECTABILITY.
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